

A briefe Relation  
OF THE  
DISCOVERY  
AND PLANTATION  
OF  
NEW ENGLAND:

AND  
OF SVNDRY ACCIDENTS  
THEREIN OCCVRRING, FROM  
the yeere of our Lord M. DC. vii. to this  
present M. DC. xxii.

Together with the state thereof as now it standeth;  
the generall forme of gouernment intended; and the  
diuision of the whole Territorie into Coun-  
ties, Baronries, &c.



LONDON,  
Printed by *John Haviland*, and are to be  
sold by WILLIAM BLADEN,  
M. DC. XXII.







TO  
THE PRINCE  
his Highnesse.



S I R

*S you are the  
height of our  
hopes and bles-  
sednesse, next af-  
ter your royall  
Father our Lord  
and Soueraigne:*

*So, next vnto his Maiesty, are wee  
bound to dedicate our best endeouours*

*A 3*

*to*

## The Epistle Dedicatory.

*to your Princely service. And for the Subiect of this relation, as your Highnesse hath beene pleased to doe it the honour, by giuing it the Name of New-England; and by your Highnesse most fauourable encouragement, to continue the same in life and being: So ought we to render an accompt of our proceedings, from the root thereof vnto the present growth it hath: which summarily is here done. If it shall appeare naked (as in truth it is) wee beseech your Highnesse to receiue it so much the rather for the truths sake, and with your bounty and grace to shelter it from the storms & tempests of malice and enuy, by which it hath been heretofore dispoyled of that goodly Ornament it might haue had by this time.*

*It*



## The Epistle Dedicatory.

*It is now almost able to comfort it selfe, and there is no question but by the light of your countenance, it will speedily grow, both to serue his Maiesty with honour and profit, and multiply the same seruice to your Highnesse in time to come, as a tribute due for the grace it receiues, by the blessings of a long peace and prosperity that our Nation enioyes vnder the Raigne of his sacred Maiestie, through which we haue the easier passage to aduance the Crosse of Christ in Heathen parts, and to display his banner in the head of his Armie against infernall spirits, which haue so long kept those poore distressed creatures (the inhabitants of those parts) in bondage, whose posteritie will for euer blesse the time, that the issue of  
your*

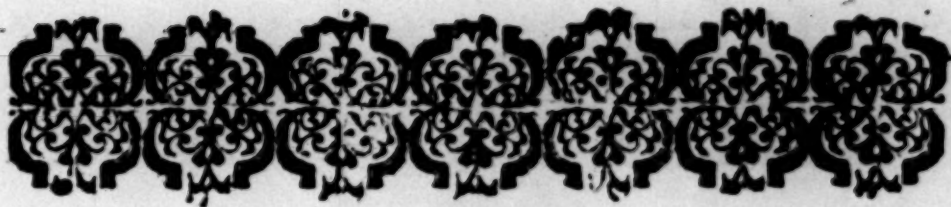
## The Epistle Dedicatorie.

*your royall Ancestors, sprung from  
so Emperiall branches, should be the  
meanes to vnite the diuided Crownes  
in one, whereby the generous Spirits  
of both Nations, may haue the fairer  
opportunity to procure their liberties.  
If your Highnesse accept of what is  
past, we will hope of happinesse to en-  
sue; and howsoeuer, pray that all en-  
crease of honour in this world, and all  
heauenly blessings in the world to  
come, may light upon your High-  
nesse; as best be omes those that are*

Your Highnesse humble seruants,

The President and Councell  
OF NEW-ENGLAND.





A brieft  
**RELATION**  
OF THE DISCOVERY  
AND PLANTATION  
of *New England.*

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Lthoug it bee a course, farre  
from the minde of vs, that are  
vndertakers for the aduance-  
ment of the Plantation of *New-  
England*, to seeke by any vaine  
ostentation to extoll our owne  
endeuours : yet we cannot but  
strive to vindicate our reputati-  
on from the iniurious aspersions that haue beene laid  
vpon it, by the malicious practises of some that would  
aduventure nothing in the beginning, but would now  
reape the benefit of our paines and charges, and yet  
not seeme beholding to vs ; and to that end they dis-  
ualew what is past, and by sinister informations dero-  
gate what they can from the present course intended :  
the rather because the good Orders appointed to bee  
put in execution there, are likely to restrain the licen-  
tious irregularitie of other places. And this hath in-  
duced vs to publish our proceedings, whereunto it  
hath pleased God to giue a blessing : as to any of in-  
different

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different iudgement may appeare by that which followeth.

**V**Hen this designe was first attempted, some of the present company were therein chiefly interested ; who being carefull to haue the same accomplished , did send to the discouery of those Northerne parts a braue Gentleman , Captaine *Henry Challons*, with two of the Natiues of that Territory, the one called *Maneday*, the other *Asscomet*. But his misfortunes did expose him to the power of certaine Strangers , enemies to his proceedings , so that by them, his company were seized, the ships and goods confiscated, and that Voyage wholly ouerthrowne.

This losse, & vnfortunate beginning, did much abate the rising courage of the first Aduenturers; but immediately vpon his departure, it pleased the noble *Lord Chiefe Iustice*, *Sir Iohn Popham knight*, to send out another ship, wherein *Captain Thomas Haman* went Commander, & *Martine Prinne* of *Bristow* Master, with all necessarie supplies, for the seconding of *Captaine Challons* and his people ; who arriuing at the place appointed, and not finding that *Captaine* there, after they had made some discouery, and found the Coasts, Hauens, and Harbors answerable to our desires, they returned. Vpon whose relation the *Lord Chiefe Iustice*, and wee all waxed so confident of the businesse, that the yeere following euerie man of any worth, formerly interested in it, was willing to ioine in the charge for the sending ouer a competent number of people to lay the ground of a hopefull plantation.

Here vpon *Captaine Popham*, *Captaine Rawley Gilbert*, and others were sent away with two Ships, and an hundred Landmen, Ordnance, and other prouisions necessarie for their sustentation and defence, vntill o-  
thers



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ther supply might bee sent. In the meane while, before they could returne, it pleased God to take from vs this worthy member, the *Lord Chiefe Iustice*, whose sudden death did so astonish the hearts of the most part of the Aduenturers, as some grew cold, and some did wholly abandon the businesse. Yet Sir *Francis Popham* his sonne, certaine of his priuate friends, and other of vs, omitted not the next yeare (holding on our first resolution) to ioine in sending forth a new supply, which was accordingly performed.

But the Ships arriuing there, did not only bring vncomfortable newes of the death of the *Lord Chiefe Iustice*, together with the death of Sir *Iohn Gilbert*, the elder brother vnto Captaine *Rawley Gilbert*, who at that tyme was President of that Councell: But found that the old Captaine *Popham* was also dead; who was the onely man (indeed) that died there that Winter, wherein they indured the greater extremities; for that, in the depth thereof, their lodgings and stores were burnt, and they thereby wondrously distressed.

This calamitie and euill newes, together with the resolution that Captaine *Gilbert* was forced to take for his owne returne, (in that hee was to succeed his brother, in the inheritance of his lands in *England*) made the whole company to resolute vpon nothing but their returne with the Ships; and for that present to leaue the Countrey againe, hauing in the time of their abode there (notwithstanding the coldnesse of the season, and the small helpe they had) built a prettie Barke of their owne, which serued them to good purpose, as easing them in their returning.

The arriual of these people heere in *England*, was a wonderfull discouragement to all the first vndertakers, in so much as there was no more speech of set-

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ling any other plantation in those parts for a long time after : only Sir *Francis Popham* hauing the Ships and prouision , which remained of the company, and supplying what was necessary for his purpose , sent diuers times to the coasts for trade and fishing ; of whose losse or gaines himselfe is best able to giue account.

Our people abandoning the plantation in this sort as you haue heard ; the *Frenchmen* immediately tooke the opportunitie to settle themselues within our limits ; which being heard of by those of *Virginia* , that discreetly tooke to their consideration the inconueniences that might arise , by suffering them to harbour there , they dispatched Sir *Samuel Argall*, with commission to displace them, which hee performed with much discretion, judgement, valour, and dexteritie. For hauing seized their Forts, which they had built at Mount *Mansell*, *Saint Croix*, and *Port Real*, he carryed away their Ordnance ; hee also surprised their Ship, Cattle, and other prouisions, which hee transported to the Collonie in *Virginia*, to their great benefit. And hereby he hath made a way for the present hopefull plantation to bee made in *Noua-Scotia*, which we heare his Maiestie hath lately granted to Sir *William Alexander* Knight, one of his Maiesties most honourable Councell of the Kingdome of *Scotland*, to bee held of the said Crowne, and that not without some of our priuities, as by approbation vnder writing may and doth appeare. Whereby it is manifest that wee are so farre from making a Monopoly of all those lands belonging to that coast ( as hath beene scandalously by some objected ) *That we wish that many would undertake the like.*

In this Interim there were of vs who apprehended better hopes of good that might ensue by this attempt, being thereunto perswaded, both by the relations of our people



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people that had indured the many difficulties whereunto such actions are subjected chiefly in the Winter season; and likewise by the informations given them by certaine of the Natives, that had beene kept a long time in their hands; wherefore we resolved once more to trie the veritie thereof, and to see if possibly we might finde something that might induce a fresh resolution to prosecute a worke so pious and so honourable. And thereupon they dispatched Captaine *Hobson*, of the Ile of *Wight*, together with Captaine *Herley*, Master *John Matthew*, Master *Sturton*, with two Salvages, the one called *Epenow*, the other *Manawet*, with commission and directions fit for them to observe and follow, the better to bring to passe what was expected. But as in all humane affaires, there is nothing more certaine, then the vncertaintie thereof; so fell it out in this; for a little before such time as they arrived vpon the coast with the foresaid Sauvages, who were Naturalls of those parts, it happened there had beene one *Hunt* (a worthlesse fellow of our Nation (set out by certaine Merchants for loue of gaine; who (not content with the commoditie he had by the fish, and peaceable trade he found among the Sauvages) after hee had made his dispatch, and was ready to set sayle, (more sauagelike then they) seized vpon the poore innocent creatures, that in confidence of his honestie had put themselves into his hands. And stowing them vnder hatches, to the number of twenty foure, carried them into the Straights, where hee sought to sell them for slaues, and sold as many as he could get money for. But when it was vnderstood from whence they were brought, the Friars of those parts took the rest from them, and kept them to be instructed in the Christian Faith, and so disappointed this vnworthy fellow of the hopes of gaine he conceiued to make by this new & diuellish proiect.

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This being knowne by our two Saluages, formerly spoken of, they presently contracted such an hatred against our whole Nation, as they immediatly studied how to be reuenged; and contriued with their friends the best meanes to bring it to passe; but *Manawet* dying in a short time after the Ships arriuall there, and the other obseruing the good order, and strong guard our people kept, studied only how to free himselfe out of our hands, and thereupon laid the plot very orderly, and indeed effected his purpose, although with so great hazard to himselfe and friends, that laboured his rescue, that Captaine *Hobson* and his whole company imagined he had beene slaine. And though in the recouery of his body they wounded the Master of our Ship, and diuers other of our company, yet was not their designe without the slaughter of some of their people, and the hurts of other, compassed, as appeared afterward.

Hereupon Captaine *Hobson* and his companie, conceiuing the end of their attempt to bee frustrate, resolued without more adoe to returne, and so those hopes, that charge and voyage was lost also, for they brought home nothing but the newes of their euill successe, of the vnfortunate cause thereof, and of a warre now new begunne betweene the inhabitants of those parts, and vs. A miserable comfort for so weake meanes as were now left, to pursue the conclusion of so tedious an enterprise.

While this was a working, wee found the meanes to send out Captaine *John Smith* from Plymouth, in a ship, together with Master *Darmer* and diuers others with him, to lay the foundation of a new Plantation, and to try the fishing of that Coast, and to seeke to settle a trade with the Natiues: But such was his misfortune, as being scarce free of our owne Coast, he had his masts shaken



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shaken overboard by stormes and tempests, his ship wonderfully distressed, and in that extremity forced to come backe againe; so as the season of the yeere being almost spent, we were of necessity enforced to furnish him with another ship, and taking out the provision of the first, dispatched him away againe, who comming to the height of the Western Islands, was chased by a French Pirate, and by him made prisoner, although his ship in the night escaped away, and returned home with the losse of much of her provision, and the overthrow of that voyage, to the ruine of that poore Gentleman Captaine *Smith*, who was detained prisoner by them, and forced to suffer many extremities, before hee got free of his troubles.

Notwithstanding these disasters, it pleased God so to worke for our encouragement againe, as hee sent into our hands *Tasquantum*, one of those Salvages that formerly had beene betrayed by this unworthy *Hunt* before named, by whose meanes there was hope conceived to worke a peace betweene vs, and his friends, they being the principall inhabitants of that coast, where the fire was kindled. But this Salvage *Tasquantum*, being at that time in the New-found land with Captaine *Mason*, Gouvernour there for the vndertakers of that Plantation: Master *Darmer* (who was there also, and sometimes before imployed as we haue said by vs, together with Captaine *Iohn Smith*) found the meanes to giue vs intelligence of him, and his opinion of the good vse that might be made of his imployment, with the readinesse of Captaine *Mason*, to further any of our attempts that way, either with boats or other provision necessary, and resolving himselfe to goe from thence, aduised vs to send some to meet with him, at our vsuall place of fishing, to aid him in his indeuour, that they ioyning together, might be able to doe what  
he

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he hoped would be verie acceptable vnto all well wishers of that businelle.

Vpon this newes, we dispatched the next season Captaine *Rocraft*, with a Company for that purpose, in hope to haue met with Captaine *Darmer*; but the care and discretion of Captaine *Mason* was such, finding Captaine *Darmers* resolution to goe beyond his meanes, that hee perswaded him first to goe for England, that prouiding himselfe there, as was requisite, he might proceed in time expedient, which counsell he obserued (as fit it was) although our expectation of his ioyning with Captaine *Rocraft* was thereby disappointed. Yet so it happened, that Captaine *Rocraft* at his arriual in those parts, met with a French Barke that lay in a Creeke a fishing, and trading, which he seized on, and sent home the Master and Company in the same Ship which he went out in.

With this Barke and his owne Company, hee meant to keepe the Coast that Winter quarter, being very well fitted both with salt, and other necessities for his turne: but as this was an Act of extremity (the poore man being of our owne Religion) so succeeded it accordingly. For in a short time after, certaine of this Captaines company, conspired together to cut his throat, and to make themselues masters of the whole spoile, and so to seeke a new fortune where they could best make it. This conspiracie being discovered to the Captaine, hee let it goe on, till the time that it should haue beene put in execution, when hee caught them in there owne traine, and so apprehended them in the very instant that they were purposed to beginne their massacre.

But after he had preuented the mischief, and seized vpon the malefactors, hee tooke to his consideration what was best to be done with them. And being loth  
by



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by himselfe to dispatch them as they deserved, he resolved to put them ashore, thinking by their hazard that it was possible they might discover something, that might aduance the publike; and so giuing them some Armes for their defense, and some victuall for their sustentation, vntill they knew better how to provide for themselves, he left them at a place called *Sawagurock*, where they remained not long, but got from thence to *Menehigon*, an Island lying some three leagues in the Sea, and fifteene leagues from that place, where they remained all that Winter, with bad lodging, and worse fare, yet came all safe home saue one sickly man, which dyed there, the rest returned with the Ship wee sent for *Rocrafts* supply and prouision, to make a fishing voyage.

After these fellowes were landed, the Captaine finding himselfe but weakely man'd, and his Ship to draw too much water to coast those places, that by his instructions he was assigned to discover, hee resolved to goe for *Virginia* where he had liued a long time before, and had (as hee conceiued) many friends, that would helpe him with some things that he had occasion to vse. Arriuing there, he was not deceiued of his expectation; for Sir *Samuel Argall* being their Gouvernour, and one that respected him much for his owne sake, was the readier to helpe him, in regard of the good hee wished to the businesse wherein he was imployed.

But all this could not preuaile, for after that Sir *Samuel Argall* came from thence (his departure being more suddaine then was expected) it fell out that the new Gouvernour entred the Harbour: and finding *Rocraft* ready to bee gone, sent to him to command him to come aboard to speake with him, which he readily obeyed, alioone as he could fit his boat and men for that purpose. And so leauing his Barke with her

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great Anker a head, and taking with him the halfe of his company, hee was forced to stay aboard the new Gouvernours Ship that night. In the meane while a storme arising, our Barke wanting hands to doe their labour, droue ashore, and there sunke. But yet the Gouvernour and Captaine so laboured the next day, when they knew thereof, as that they freed her againe, but that occasion forced our Captaine to stay so long in the Countrey to fit himselfe anew, as in the interim a quarrell fell out betweene him and another of that place; so as *Rocraft* was slaine, and the Barque sunke the second time, and finally disabled from yeelding vs any benefit to this present.

But we not knowing this disaster, and Captaine *Darmer* arriuing with his Saluage out of New-found-land, dispatched him away the next season, in a shippe we sent againe for the fishing businesse, and assigned him a company to ioyne with *Rocraft* and his people.

Captaine *Darmer* arriuing there, and not finding *Rocraft*, was a little perplexed, and in doubt what to doe: yet hearing by those Mutiners which he found there, that he was gone for *Virginia*; he was hopefull of his returne; and liued in that expectation, till such time as he heard (by a ship that came from thence to fish for the Collony) the confusion of his fortune, and the end of his misery in this world. Then he determined to take the Pinnace that the yeare before was assigned to *Rocraft* for him to make the trade with, and with her to proceed on his designe, and so embarked himselfe, and his prouision and company in her. And leaving the fisher-men to their labour, he coasted the shore from thence, searching euery Harbor, and compassing euery Cape-land, till he arriued in *Virginia*; where he was in hope to meet with some of the prouision, or company of *Rocraft*, to helpe to supply him of what  
he



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he wanted; as also to lay a Decke vpon his Pinnace, that before had not any, and now was taught by experience the necessitie of hauing that defect supplied.

But those hopes failed him (al being before that time ruined and dispersed) so farre, as he saw it in vaine to hope for help by that means, and therefore attempted to make the best of what hee had of his owne. And going to set his men a worke, they all in a few dayes after their arriuall, fell sicke of a disease which hapned at that time in the country, so as now he was not onely forced to be withour hope of their helping of him, but must labor himselfe all he could to attend and sustaine them; but so God fauoured him, that they recovered, and in time conuenient he dispatched his businelle there, and put himselfe to Sea againe, resolving to accomplish in his journey backe to *New-England*, what in his last Discovery he had omitted.

In his passage he met with certaine *Hollanders*, who had a trade in *Hudsons* river some yeares before that time, with whom he had conference about the state of that coast, and their proceedings with those people: whose answer gaue him good content. He betooke himselfe to the following of his businelle, discovering many goodly Riuers, and exceeding pleasant, and fruitfull coasts, and Islands, for the space of 80. leagues from East to West, for so that coast doth range along from *Hudsons* Riuer to *Cape James*.

Now after we had found by Captaine *Rocrafts* relation made the yeare before, the hopes he conceiued of the benefits that coast would afford, towards the vpholding of the charge for settling our Plantation by reason of the commodities arising by fishing and furies, if a course might be taken for the manning of that businelle, as was fit for such a designe; as well as for the aduancement of the publique good of our whole Nati-

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on, and satisfaction of euery well disposed person, that had a will to be interessed therein.

It was held to be most conuenient to strengthen our selues by a new Grant to be obtained from his royall Maiestie: the rather, finding that those of *Virginia* had by two seuerall Patents settled their bounds, and excluded all from intermedling with them that were not free of their Company; and had wholly altered the forme of their Gouvernment, from the first ground layed for the managing the affaires of both Collonies, leauing vs as desperate, and our businesse as abandoned.

These considerations (as is said) together with the necessitie of settling our affaires, bounds and limits, distinct from theirs, made vs resolute to petition his Maiestie for the renewing of our Grant.

By which time the rumour of our hopes was so publicly spread abroad, and the commodities of the Fish, and trade so looked into, as it was desired, that all that coast might be made free, as well to those of *Virginia*, as to vs to make their commoditie: How iust or vniust that motion was, we will not argue, seeing the businesse is ended.

By this meanes, our proceedings were interrupted, and we questioned about it; first, by the Councell of *Virginia*, whom we thought to haue bene fully satisfied therein, before we could haue way giuen vs for a new Patent, both parties hauing beene heard by certaine of the Lords of the Councell; and the businesse by them so ordered, as we were directed to proceed and to haue our Grant agreeable to the libertie of the *Virginia* Company, the frame of our gouernment excepted; but this order not being liked, of, it was againe heard & concluded. Lastly, the Patent being past the Seale, it was stopt vpon new suggestions to the King, and by his Maiestie referred to the Councell to be settled, by whom the former



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mer Orders were confirmed, the difference cleared, and we ordered to haue our Parents deliuered vs.

These disputes held vs almost two yeeres, so as all men were afraid to ioyne with vs, and we thereby left hopelesse of any thing more, than that which our owne fortunes would yeeld to aduance our proceedings, in which time so many accidents hapned vnto vs at home, and abroad, that wee were faine to giue order by the ships we sent a fishing, for the retiring of Master *Darmer*, and his people, vntill all things were cleared, and we better provided of meanes to goe through with our designe: but this worthy Gentleman confident of the good likely to ensue, and resolutely resolving to pursue the ends he aymed at, could not be perswaded to looke backe, as yet; and so refusing to accept our offer, began againe to prosecute his D. scouery, wherein he was betrayed by certaine new Saluages, who sodainly set vpon him, giuing him foureteene or fiftene wounds, but by his valour, and dexteritie of spirit he freed himselfe out of their hands, yet was constrained to retire into *Virginia* again the second time, for the cure of his wounds, where he fell sicke of the infirmities of that place, and thereof dyed: so ended this worthie Gentleman his dayes, after he had remained in the discovery of that coast two yeares, giuing vs good content in all hee vndertooke; and after he had made the peace between vs and the Saluages, that so much abhorred our Nation, for the wrongs done them by others, as you haue heard: but the fruit of his labour in that behalfe we as yet receiue to our great commoditie, who haue a peaceable plantation at this present among them, where our people both prosper, and liue in good liking, and assurednesse of their neighbours, that had beene formerly so much exasperated against vs, as will more at large appeare hereafter.

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But hauing passed all these stormes abroad, and vndergone so many home-bred oppositions, and freed our Patent, which we were by order of State assigned to renew, for the amendment of some defects therein contained, we were assured of this ground more boldly to proceed on than before; and therefore we tooke first to consideration how to raise the meanes to aduance the plantation. In the examination thereof, two wayes did offer themselves: The one was the voluntary contribution of the *Patentees*; The other, by an easie ransoming of the freedoms of those that had a will to partake onely of the present profits, arising by the trade, and fishing vpon the coast.

The first was to proceed from those Noble-men, and others that were *Patentees*, and they agreed by order among themselves to disburse a hundred pounds a peece, for the aduancement of such necessary busines, as they had in hand.

The second was to be accomplished by seeing such liberties and orders in the westerne cities, and townes, as might induce euery reasonable man, in, and about them, affecting the publike good, or a regular proceeding in the businesse of trade, to embrace an vniformitie, and to ioyne in a communitie, or ioynt stocke together: How reasonable, or vnreasonable those orders were, is hereafter to be scene, and iudged by euery well affected person, or any truly louing the publike good of our Nation, whereunto is annexed the difference of trading by a ioynt stocke vnder gouernment and orders, and the promiscuous trading without order, and in a dis-joynted manner, as of late they haue done to the infinite preiudice of others already, as also to the losse of many of themselves, that contemptuously and greedily haue leapt into that course, as it were in despite of all Authoritie, whose reward, in time, will follow.

Before



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Before these Orders were to be tendered to those cities and townes, it was desired that there might be letters sent from their Lordships, admonishing them of his Maiesties royall Grant, that prohibiteth any not free of that busines, to intermeddle within our limits, vpon paine of confiscation of ship and goods. These letters expressing withall the good affection of those that were interessed in the businesse, to entertaine any that should be willing to conforme themselves to such orders, as had in that behalfe beene established.

But those letters how full of Iustice soeuer they appeared, were as distastefull, as was the rumor of Order vnto them: for by it euery particular man thought himselfe strait debarred of libertie to run his owne currant, in which he thought his freedome did onely consist; and by debarring him thereof, his priuate ends were overthrowne, which was to endeouour to preuent his neighbour of the market he aimed at, or the Harbour he resorted to goe vnto, or the present trade hee expected to haue by his priuate industrie, but as for the publique hee cared not, let that fare as it would. While these things were in dispute, and likely to haue taken a good foundation, the news of the Parliament flew to all parts, & then the most factious of euery place, presently combined themselves to follow the businesse in Parliament, where they presumed to proue the same to be a Monopolie, and much tending to the preiudice of the common good. But that there should be a conformitie in trade, or a course taken to preuent the euills that were likely to ensue, or to appropriate possessions, or lands, after a generous manner, in remote parts of the world, to certaine publique persons, of the common-wealth, for the taking care, and spending their time and means how to aduance the enlargement of their Countrey, the honour of their King, and glory of their God; these were  
thought

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thought crimes worthy the taking notice of, and the principall Actors in this kinde, must be first traduced in priuate, then publicly called vpon in Parliament, to answer such other scandalls as could by malice be inuented.

But as this businesse was in it selfe iust, and righteous, so was it as earnestly desired, they might haue had the opportunitie to haue answered it before so vnpartiall Iudges, and so reuerend persons; if so it might haue been without offence to the authoritie of his royall Maiestie, that had extended it selfe by vertue of his Prerogatiue so farre off, and without the Lawes of this Realme, and to be put in execution without the publike expence, or charge of the common-wealth, or preiudice to any other former employments of our Nation, and indeed without offence to any that couered not to put their sickle into the haruest of other men, or whose enuious & couetous humors stirred them not vp to shame themselves in the conclusion.

These troubles thus vnfortunately falling out, haue notwithstanding hindered vs from the hopes we had this yeare, to giue some life extraordinarily to those affaires, & therefore we are forced of necessitie to refer the maine of our resolution, till a more conuenient opportunitie, and till we haue gotten our ships and prouision fit to serue our turnes both to giue the Law along those coasts, and to performe such other seruice, as is thereby intended for the publike good of our Aduenturers, and defence of our Marchants, that shall frequent those places, according to such Orders, as shall be found behouefull in that behalfe.



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*The Clime and condition of the  
Country, and the present estate  
of our affaires there.*



You haue heard already the many disasters, calamities, misfortunes, oppositions, and hinderances we haue had, and receiued. Howbeit many are omitted, in that we desire not to trouble the Reader with more than enough; or to affright the minds of weak spirits, that will belecue there is no better successe to be looked for from such attempts: although it be true that the best designs do oftentimes cary with them the most impediments, whether it be that God will haue it so, to trie our constancie, or otherwise to make vs know, that it is he onely that worketh after his owne will, according to the time he hath assigned, and that there is nothing done but by him, as also that, that is onely best which hee will haue to be done, and that time most proper which he hath assigned for the same.

But by these you may imagine (seeing we haue none other helps than our owne fortunes to build vpon) there can no great matters bee performed in these stormes and tempests. Notwithstanding, you may know wee haue not beene more hindred one way, than blessed another: for, as our patience, constancie, trauels and charge hath beene great, so hath it (indeed) manifoldly beene requited: For, by GODS fauour, and these Gentlemens industrie, we haue made a most ample discouerie of the most commodious Country for the benefit of our Nation, that euer hath beene found.

For better satisfaction of the Reader in this behalfe,

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we haue thought it fit, by the way, to acquaint him first with the nature of the place where wee haue settled our selues, whereby hee may see reason for what wee haue done, remembring him likewise, that in settling of plantations, there is principally to be considered: The aire, for the health of the Inhabitants. The soile, for fertilitie fit for corne, and feeding of cattle wherewith to sustaine them. The Sea, for commoditie of trade and commerce, the better to enrich their publique and priuate State, as it shall grow to perfection, and to raise employments, to furnish the course of those affaires.

Now for the quality of the Aire, there is none of iudgement but knowes it proceedeth either from the generall disposition of the Sphere, or from the particular constitution of the place.

Touching the disposition of the Sphere, it is not onely seated in the temperate Zone, but as it were in the Center, or middle part thereof, for that the middle part of that Country hath about three hundred and ten degrees of Longitude; and stands in the forty fourth and forty fifth degrees of the Northerne Latitude, that is, twenty degrees from the fiery Tropicke, and as much from the freeing Articke Circle: Vnder the same climate and course of the Sunne that *Constantinople*, and *Rome*, the Ladies of the World; *Italy*, and *France*, the Gardens of Europe, haue their situation, within the limits of the fifth and sixth Climate, after the later computation; hauing their longest day fifteene houres and some odde minutes.

Touching the constitution of the place ( which is about sixty two degrees by Sea from our Continent Westerly ) The Maritime parts thereof are somewhat colder, then the nature of the Clime otherwise affordeth; for that the beames of the Sunne are weakned, partly by the vnstable reflection of the same vpon the Sea,



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Sea, and partly by beeing laden with abundance of moisture it exhales out of the vast Ocean, whereby the nature thereof is not so violently there expressed, as in the like parallel further into the maine is accustomed. Nor is that Sea coast so subiect to droughts or want of raine in-seasonable times, as other parts are of like Latitudes, and by that reason the Sea coasts are at all times more cold then is the Inland. And the Easterne coast which receiueth the rising of the Sunne, is likewise colder then are the Westerne parts, towards the declining of the same, as our morning aires (for example) euen in the heat of Summer are cold and quicke, when the day and euening are very sweltring. And this makes those parts more suitable to the nature of our people, who neither finde content in the colder Climates, nor health in the hotter; but (as hearbs and plants) affect their native temperature, and prosper kindly no where else.

And indeed, the hot Countreys yeeld sharper wits, but weaker bodies, and fewer children; the colder, more slow of conceit, but stronger of body, and more abounding in procreation. So that, though the inuention of Arts hath risen from the Southerne Nations, yet they haue still beene subiect to the inundations, and inuasions of the more Northerly people, by reason of their multitudes, together with the strength of their body, and hardnesse of their constitutions.

But this Country, what by the generall and particular situation, is so temperate, as it seemeth to hold the golden meane, and indeed is most agreeable to the nature of our owne, which is made manifest by experience, the most intallible prooffe of all assertions; in so much as our people that are settled there, enjoy their life and health much more happily,

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pilly, then in other places ; which can bee imputed to no other cause, then the temperature of the Climate.

Now, as the Clime is found to bee so temperate, so delicate, and healthfull, both by reason and experience ; such is the soile also, some parts thereof yeelding wonderfull increase, both of the Corne, the Natiues haue most vse of ; as also of our owne, of all sorts : with infinite variety of nourishing roots, and other herbes, and fruits, common among them, but rare with vs.

Besides, the Coast doth abound with most convenient Hauens, and Harbors, full of singular Islands, fit for Plantation ; replenished with Plants and Wood of all sorts ; as Oake, Cedars, Spruce, Firre, Pyne, Walnut, Chestnut, Elme, Sassafras, Plum-trees, and Calamus Aromaticus, &c.

The people are tractable (if they bee not abused) to commerce and Trade withall, and as yet haue good respect of vs. The Seas are stored with all kindes of excellent fish, and in many places vpon the coast, fit to make Salt in. The Country aboundeth with diuersity of wild foule, as Turkeys, Partridges, Swans, Cranes, wilde Geese of two sorts, wilde Duckes of three sorts, many Doves, especially when Strawberies are ripe.

There are seuerall sorts of Deere in those parts, and some that bring forth two, three, and foure young at once, which is a manifest prooffe of the fertility of the Soile, or temper of the Clime, or both together.

There is also a certaine Beast, that the Natiues call a Mosse, hee is as big bodied as an Oxe, headed like a fallow Deere, with a broad Palme, which hee mues euery yeere, as doth the Deere, and necke like a Red Deere, with a short mane, running downe along the raines of his backe, his haire long like an Elke, but esteemed



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esteemed to be better then that for Sadlers vse, he hath likewise a great bunch hanging downe vnder his throat, and is of the colour of our blacker sort of fallow Deere, his legges are long, and his feet as bigge as the feet of our Oxen, his taile is longer then the single of a Deere, and reacheth almost downe to his huxens, his skinne maketh very good Buffe, and his flesh is excellent good food, which the Natiues vse to Ierkin and keepe all the yeere to serue their turne, and so prooues very seruiceable for their vse. There haue beene many of them seene in a great Island vpon the Coast, called by our people *Mount Mansell*, whither the Salvages goe at certaine seasons to hunt them; the manner whereof is, by making of seuerall fires, and setting the Countrey with people, to force them into the Sea, to which they are naturally addicted, and then there are others that attend them in their Bores with bowes and weapons of seuerall kindes, wherewith they slay and take at their pleasure. And there is hope that this kinde of Beasts may bee made seruiceable for ordinary labour with Art and Industry.

The knowne Commodities of that Country, are Fish of seuerall sorts, rich Furies, as Beaucers, Otters, Martins, blacke Fox, Sables, &c. There are likewise plenty of Vines, of three kindes, and those pleasant to the taste, yet some better then other. There is Hempe, Flax, Silkgrasse, seuerall veines of Ironstone, commodities to make Pitch, Rosen, Tarre; Deale boords of all sorts, Sparres, Malts, for Ships of all burdens; in a word, there comes no commodity out of *France*, *Germany*, or the *Sound*, but may be had there, with reasonable labour and industry.

Further, wee haue settled at this present, seuerall Plantations along the Coast, and haue granted Patents to many more that are in preparation to bee gone with



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all conueniencie. Those of our people that are there, haue both health and plenty, so as they acknowledge there is no want of any thing, but of industrious people, to reape the commodities that are there to be had, and they are indeed so much affected to the place, as they are loth to be drawne from thence, although they were directed to returne to giue satisfaction to those that sent them, but chose rather to performe that office by letters, together with their excuse, for breach of their duty in that behalfe. And thus you see there is no labour well employed, but hath his reward at one time or other.

These encouragements haue imboldned vs to proceed, to the ingaging of our selues, for the building of some Ships of good burden, and extraordinary Mould, to lie vpon the Coast for the defense of Merchants and Fishermen, that are employed there, as also to Waite the Fleets, as they goe to and from their Markets: and we purpose from henceforth to build our shipping there, where wee find all commodities fit for that seruice, together with the most opportune places, that can bee desired.

Lastly, finding that wee haue so far forth preuailed, as to winde our selues into familiarity with the Natiues, (which are in no great number) along the Coast for two hundred Leagues together, wee haue now dispatched some of our people of purpose, to diue into the bowels of the Continent, there to search and finde out what Port, or Place, is most conuenient to settle our maine Plantation in, where wee meane to make the Residence of our State and Government, as also to bee assured, what other commodities may be raised for the publique, and priuate benefit of those that are dealers in that businesse, and willing to bee interessed in any the Lands there: Whither is gone this yeere already,  
for

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#### *The Platforme of the gouernment, and Diuisions of the Territories in generall.*

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As there is no Common-wealth that can stand without gouernment, so the best gouernments haue euer had their beginnings from one supreme head, who hath disposed of the administration of Iustice, and execution of publike affaires, either according to lawes established, or by the aduice, or counsell of the most eminent, discreetest, and best able in that kinde. The verity of this is so cleere, as it needs no example: for that indeed all nations from the beginning, vnto this present, follow still the same rule in effect, howsoeuer they vary in the forme, or some small circumstances.

And vpon this generall ground, the Kings of these our Realmes did first lay the foundations of their Monarchies; reseruing vnto themselues the soueraigne power of all (as fit it was) and diuiding their kingdomes into Countie, Baronies, Hundreds, and the like; instituted their Lieutenants, or Officers, meet to gouerne those Subdiuisions, that the Subiect might with the more ease receiue iustice, and the Soueraignes at more leasure the better able to dispose of matters of greater consequence.

This foundation being so certaine, there is no reason  
for



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for Trade and Fishing onely, thirty Saile of the better sort of Ships, belonging to the Westerne parts, besides those who are gone for transportation of the Planters, or supply of such as are already planted, whose returne (as is supposed) will amount (at the least) to thirty thousand pound, the greater part whereof comes home in *Bullion*.

And therefore as touching the third happinesse of these parts, which is the *Sea*, there needeth no other or greater commendation then this benefit of *Fishing* assured vnto vs by common *Experience*; although it affords many other hopes both in regard of the facilitie of the nauigation, the boldnesse of the Coast, the conueniency of *Roades, Hauens* and *Harbors*, for performance of all manner of imployments; yet is there also found *Showes of Pearle, Ambergrees*, great numbers of *Whales*, and other marchantable meanes to raise profit to the industrious Inhabitants or diligent Traders.

Heere you may see to what profit our industry and charge hath beene imployed; what benefit our Countrey is like to receiue by it, and whether it bee reason wee should bee so traduced, as we haue beene, wee seeking nothing more then the glory of God, the enlarging of his Highnesse Dominions, and generall good of all his Maiesties loyall subiects, and struing for the better accomplishment therof to keepe Order, and settle Government in those affaires, to preserue from ruine and confusion so faire a foundation, whereon is likely to bee built the goodliest frame that hath euer beene vnderaken to be raised by our Nation.

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for vs to vary from it, and therefore we haue resolved to build our Edifices vpon it, and to frame the same after the platforme already layd, and from whence wee take our denomination. So as we purpose to commit the managing of our whole affaires there in generall, vnto a Gouvernour, to be assisted by the aduice and counsel of so many of the *Patentees* as shall be there resident, together with the Officers of State, that is to say; The Treasurer for the managing of the treasure and reuenues belonging to that State. The Martiall for matters of Armes, and affaires of warres, be it defensiu or offensiu. The Admirall for maritime businesse ciuill or criminall, and the forces belonging to the Sea. The master of the ordnance for munition, artillery and other prouisions for publique store of Armies by Sea or Land; as also such other persons of iudgement and experience, as by the President and Counsell established here, for the better gouerning of those affaires shall be thought fit.

By this Head, and these Members, vnited together, the great affaires of the whole State is to be managed, according to their seuerall authorities, giuen them from their Superiours, the President and Councell established as aforesaid.

And for that all men by nature are best pleased to be their owne caruers, and doe most willingly submit to those Ordinances, or Orders whereof themselves are authors: it is therefore resolved, that the generall lawes whereby that State is to be gouerned, shall be first framed and agreed vpon by the generall assembly of the States of those parts, both Spirituall and Temporall.

For the better distinction whereof, and the more orderly proceeding, agreeable (as is said) to the present State of this our Realme, two parts of the whole Territorie is to be diuided betweene the *Patentees*, into seuerall



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all Counties, to be by themselves or their friends planted, at their pleasure or best commoditie. The other third part is to be reserved for publique vses, to be belonging to the State, as their reunew for defraying of publique charge.

But as well this third part, as the two formerly spoken of, is to be diuided into Counties, Baronries, Hundreds, and the like, from all which the Deputies for euery County, and Baronry, are to besent in the name and behalfe of the Subiects, vnder them to consult and agree vpon the Lawes so to be framed, as also to reforme any notable abuses committed in former proceedings.

Yet these are not to be assembled, but by order from the President and Councell heere, who are to giue life to the Lawes so to be made, as those to whom of right it best belongs, according to his Maiesties royall grant in that behalfe, as also that vnder God, and his Sacred *Hightnesse*, they are the principall Authors of that foundation. And thus much for the generall forme of our Gouvernement.

In like manner are the Counties to be gouerned by the chiefe Head or Deputy thereof with other Officers vnder him. As his Steward, Comptroller, Treasurer of his reuenues; and so the Baronries by their Stewards, and other inferiour ministers, who are to haue assigned them the power of high and low Iustice within themselves for determining of Controuersies, with reservation of Appeale in some cases to the supreme Courts.

And further, these Lords of Counties may of themselves subdiuide their said County into Mannors and Lordships, as to them shall seeme best, giuing to the Lords thereof power of keeping of Courts, and Leets, as is heere vsed in *England*, for the determining of petty matters,



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matters, arising betweene the Lords, and the Tenants, or any other.

And there is no lesse care to be taken for the trade and publique commerce of Merchants, whose gouernment ought to be within themselves, in respect of the seuerall occasions arising betweene them, the tradesmen, and other the Mechanickes, with whom they haue most to doe: and who are generally the chiefe inhabitants of great Citties, and Townes, in all parts; it is likewise provided, that all the Cities in that Territory, and other inferiour Townes where Trades-men are in any numbers, shall be incorporate and made bodies politique, to gouerne their affaires and people as it shall be found most behouefull for the publique good of the same; according vnto the greatnes or capacity of them, who shall be made likewise capable to send certaine their Deputies, or Burgesses to this publique assembly, as members thereof, and who shall haue voyces equall with any the rest.

**B**Y this you see our maine drift is but to take care for the well ordering of the businesse, seeking by all meanes to auoyd (what we may) the intermedling with any mens monies, or disposing of any mens fortunes, saue onely our owne; leauing to euery particular vnder-taker the imployment of their aduentures, and the raising of their profits, out of their proper limits, and possessions, as shall seeme best to themselves, or their officers, or ministers, whom they imploy, and whom they may be bold to question, or displace, as to themselves shall seeme most fitting.

And hereby all men may know, that as it is not in our wills to delude and deceiue any, so wee are carefull not to giue the least cause of suspicion of any euill in that kinde; so much the rather for that wee daily see by experience,

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perience, the abuses committed in like cases by inferior ministers, to be a notable cause to dehort the good dispositions of many otherwise well affected to Plantations, for that they obserue those that are so employed to grow rich, and their aduentures to come to nothing.

And wee further desire that all men should bee perswaded, wee couet not to engrosse any thing at all vnto our selues, but that wee should bee exceeding glad to finde more of our Nation, so free in disposition, as to partake with vs, as well in the profit, as in the future trauell, and charge thereof; without looking backe to our expence, or labour already past, to the end that all our hands being vnited together, the worke may bee so much the sooner aduanced, well knowing and freely confessing, that it is sufficient to giue content to a multitude, and that of all sorts. For such as are truly Pious, shall finde heere the opportunity to put in practise the workes of piety, both in building of Churches, and raising of Colledges for the breeding of youth, or maintenance of Diuines and other learned men. If they be such as affect Glory, and to continue their memory to future ages, they may haue heere the meanes to raise Houses, Parishes, yea Townes, or Prouinces, to their Names and Posterity. Doe they aime at wealth? heere is the way for their industry to satiate their appetites in that, if they be not vn-satiabte. Doe they long after pleasure? here is as much to be had as may content any, not meereely voluptuous, or onely prodigall. Doe they aspire to be Commanders? here is the place where they may haue command of their owne friends, or tenants, if they be of any worth, or meanes extraordinary wherewith to transport any numbers. If otherwise of experience and vertue, it is likely they may attaine places of gouernement for the publique State. So as you see there wants no occasions, or opportunity to inuite, or  
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giue satisfaction to such as haue patience to attend the time.

And indeed we shall be glad, that this, or any thing else may induce a free and noble resolution, in any well affected person, to endeavour the aduancement of these ends, together with vs, in that they shall finde them agreeable to honour, and honestie; and if there bee any that can adde ought vnto our endeouours, by their aduice or otherwise, there is none that shall more readily embrace the same then wee; whose intents are onely framed for the prosperity of the businesse, as is already said, and as we hope will all those be, that shall assent to ioyne with vs, both in the labor, profit, and honour, without respect to the weakenesse of the motiue, by which it hath beene heeretofore mooued, or any thing saue the worke it selfe. For by it you shall finde the Honour of our God, our King, and Nation, will bee aduanced, without effusion of Christian bloud, or question of wrong to the present Inhabitants. For that they themselves both desire it, & we intēd not to take ought, but what they that are there, are willing wee should bee seized of, both for the defence of them against their Enemies, and their preservation in peace among themselves, & propagation of the Christian Faith, which with wonderfull alacrity many of them seeme to giue care vnto, and for whose speedy conuersion wee intend to bee as carefull as of our owne happinesse; and as diligent to build them houses, and to provide them Tutors for their breeding, and bringing vp of their children, of both sects, as to aduance any other businesse whatsoever, for that wee acknowledge our selues specially bound thereunto. And this being done, to referre the successe, to the Author of Heauen and Earth, to whom be all Honour and glory.

FINIS.